

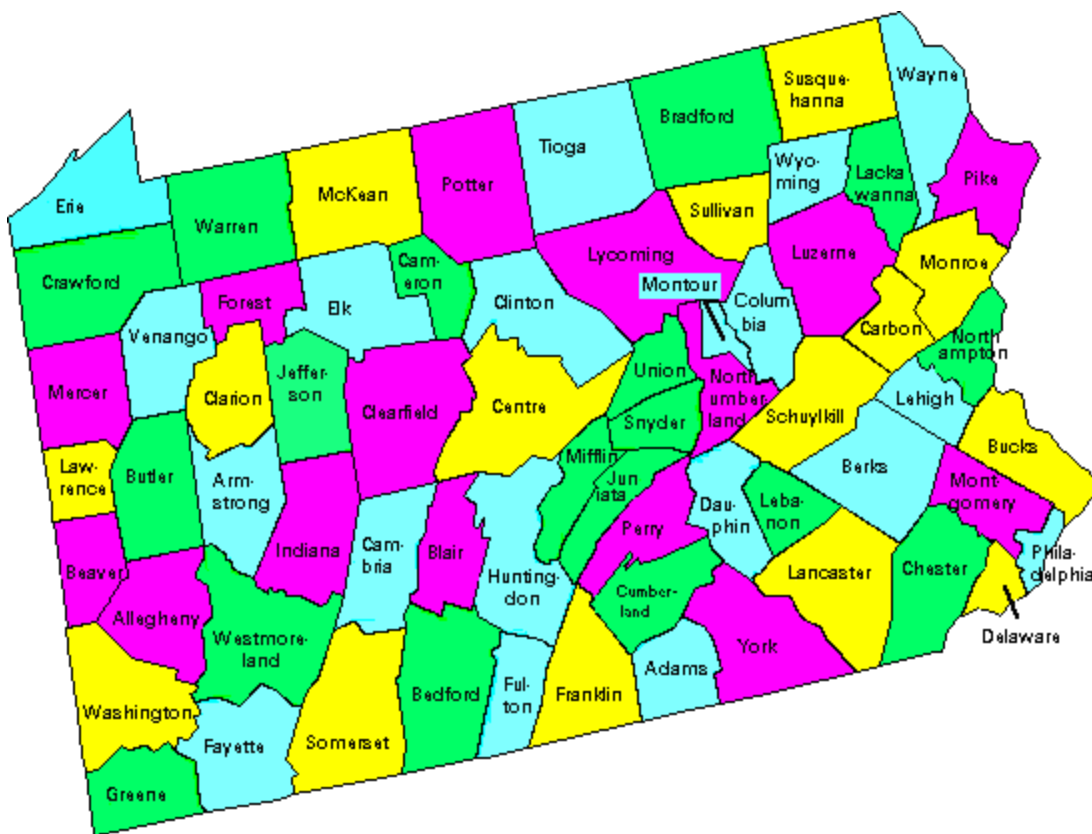
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Pennsylvania

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

June 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Pennsylvania**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population- 11,994,016 (1999 estimate) 11,881,643 (1990 Census)
- Gender- 47.9% male, 52.1% female
- Race- 88.5% White, 9.2% Black, 0.1% American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut, 1.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, 1% other.
- Percent of Population below poverty level (1995 Census Estimate): 11.3%

### **Politics**

- U.S. Representatives: Brady, Robert 1<sup>st</sup>; Fattah, Chaka 2<sup>nd</sup>; Borski, Robert 3<sup>rd</sup>; Klink, Ron 4<sup>th</sup>; Peterson, John 5<sup>th</sup>; Holden, Tim 6<sup>th</sup>; Weldon, Curt 7<sup>th</sup>; Greenwood, James 8<sup>th</sup>; Shuster, Bud 9<sup>th</sup>; Sherwood, Donald 10<sup>th</sup>; Kanjorski, Paul 11<sup>th</sup>; Murtha, John 12<sup>th</sup>; Hoeffel, Joe 13<sup>th</sup>; Coyne, William 14<sup>th</sup>; Toomey, Pat 15<sup>th</sup>; Pitts, Joseph 16<sup>th</sup>; Gekas, George 17<sup>th</sup>; Doyle, Michael 18<sup>th</sup>; Goodling, William 19<sup>th</sup>; Mascara, Frank 20<sup>th</sup>; English, Phil 21<sup>st</sup> <sup>2</sup>
- U.S. Senate: Rick Santorum (R); Arlen Specter (R) <sup>3</sup>
- Governor: Tom Ridge <sup>4</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Mark Schweiker <sup>5</sup>
- Attorney General: Mike Fisher <sup>6</sup>
- Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Director: Ronald Stanko <sup>7</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA): The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA was designated in 1995. Philadelphia remains a center of activity for the importation, wholesale distribution, and street level sales of illegal drugs on the East Coast. Camden, New Jersey, separated from Philadelphia by the Delaware River, is a focal point for drug trafficking from Philadelphia and the New York area. The location of Philadelphia and Camden on the eastern seaboard, particularly their proximity to New York, places the city on one of the busiest transit routes. Major interstate rail and highway systems; a major international airport, one of the fastest growing in the world; and key shipping terminals on the 100 miles of waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the region. The Port of Philadelphia is a major international seaport and the second largest seaport in the nation. Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through this port. Major New York drug trafficking organizations use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for their drugs, drug-proceeds, and illegal guns. New York gangs have expanded their territory to the outskirts of the area. <sup>8</sup>
- FY 1999 Drug Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) <sup>9</sup>:
  - \$100,000 to the Community prevention Partnership of Berks County, Inc.

The funds will be used to reduce the availability of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances.

- \$99,998 to the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation.

The Foundation will work to reduce youth drug, alcohol, and tobacco use as well as youth weapons possession. Funds will also be used to establish a community-based process to identify troubled youth who are substance users or are at-risk of future drug and alcohol use

- \$99,792 to Woodrock, Inc., Philadelphia

Funds will be used to provide monthly training and hold activities that teach substance abuse prevention, conflict mediation, problem solving, and team building. Woodrock will educate the community about drug prevention through workshops and outreach activities as well as working with families to set and attain goals for drug prevention, conflict resolution, and positive youth development.

- \$90,822.00 Addison Learning Terrace of Pittsburgh, Inc.

In conjunction with the Pittsburgh Coalition Against Substance Abuse, funds will be used to build on an existing program that combines substance use prevention with HIV/AIDS education, conflict resolution and employment opportunities.

➤ Executive Office of Weed and Seed<sup>10</sup>:

- Philadelphia has been funded as an “original” Weed and Seed demonstration site since 1992. The target area is bounded on the East by Front Street, on the West by Fifth Street, on the North by Westmoreland Street and the southern border is Berks Street. The continuing goal is to revitalize the neighborhood and provide the opportunity for the residents in the community to live, work, and raise children in a safe and clean environment. Some accomplishments of the program have been the arresting of several defendants involved in a massive cocaine distribution operation, to which 26 defendants have pled guilty. Another accomplishment has been the federal indictment of the principal person of the “High Class” heroin organization, responsible for selling over 600 packets of heroin on the street daily. Safe Havens continue to be the center for most of the activities by providing tutoring, workshops, health fairs, etc. “Here’s Looking at You 2000,” is a drug education curriculum that begins in kindergarten in which 7500 children and teachers in eleven public and parochial schools have participated.
- Pittsburgh was designated a Weed and Seed area in 1992. In 1995, the target area was expanded to include the Hill District, Hazelwood, and Glen Hazel neighborhood in the city of Pittsburgh as well as the Boroughs of Homestead and West Homestead. Overall focus remains on coordinated law enforcement efforts across and within each of the jurisdictions. Focus has also been placed on decreasing the drug trafficking throughout the Hazelwood target area. The Violent Traffickers Program Task Force (VTP) focuses specifically on drug dealers who engage in violence to further their illegal activities. KIDSWATCH, a youth program that provides children with an intense education in personal safety, crime, prevention, civic awareness, and responsibility has been very successful in steering youth away from violence and drugs.

- The East Liberty neighborhood in the city of Pittsburgh was started in 1992 as a Weed and Seed area. Gang related violence, including homicide and drug related offenses throughout the target area, has increased. Several gangs are known to deal drugs and guns in East Liberty.
- Drug Court Program Office<sup>11</sup>:
  - The Drug Court in Williamsport was implemented in 1999.

#### Location and Implementation Date of Pennsylvania Drug Courts

County/City	Year of Implementation
Chester Co/West Chester	1997
Lycoming Co/ Williamsport	1999
Philadelphia Co/ Philadelphia	1997
York Co/ York	1998
Allegheny Co/ Pittsburgh	Recently Implemented
Erie Co/ Erie	Recently Implemented

- D.A.R.E.<sup>12</sup>  
Administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) through a subgrant program that provides local police agencies and school districts with funds that support salaries and the purchase of materials associated with D.A.R.E. During July of each year, local authorities are provided with an information packet that contains guidelines and the application for documenting financial needs to teach D.A.R.E. Applicants can obtain technical assistance, if needed, by contacting PCCD. Completed applications are acted upon by the Commission in a manner that is consistent with the availability of funds allocated by the Commonwealth.
- 1-877-PA NO-DRUGS  
An 800 line for citizens to report drug traffickers in their neighborhoods twenty four hours a day.

#### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In Philadelphia during 1998 78.7% of male arrestees and 77.4% of female arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.<sup>13</sup>

#### Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense, Philadelphia 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Violent</b>	28.8	36.1	42.4	29.2	0.8	1.4	7.2	1.4	63.2	54.2
<b>Property</b>	50.0	28.8	50.0	28.8	1.4	0.0	9.5	1.5	83.8	59.1
<b>Drug</b>	48.4	66.7	46.7	29.3	0.3	0.0	11.8	6.1	85.8	88.9
<b>Prostitution</b>	56.3	94.2	18.8	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.3	97.1
<b>Other</b>	54.5	44.4	36.4	11.1	0.0	0.0	9.1	1.1	72.7	44.4
<b>Total</b>	44.5	60.9	44.9	23.7	0.6	0.3	9.9	2.6	78.7	77.4

- Of the 39,928 arrests for drug abuse violations in 1998, 5,808 involved people under the age of 18.<sup>14</sup>

#### Number of Arrests, Pennsylvania, 1998

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	51	525
Forcible rape	265	1,207
Robbery	1,645	6,696
Aggravated Assault	2,949	13,928
Burglary	3,190	10,027
Larceny-theft	10,967	39,213
Motor vehicle theft	2,265	6,789
Arson	411	926
Drug abuse violations	5,808	39,928
Driving Under the Influence	607	35,475
Liquor Laws	8,860	25,332
All Categories	108,494	412,720

#### Drugs

- Cocaine continues to be the most reported drug used in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A report prepared in 1999 by the Department of Health stated that 55 of the 67 Counties in Pennsylvania listed cocaine as one of the top three drugs used in that County.<sup>15</sup>
- Marijuana continues to be a major cash crop in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Many people consider this substance to be the lesser of evils when it comes to drug use. In the last few years heroin has returned to popularity due in large part to the increased purity of the substance. This allows drug users that were fearful of injecting chemicals into their bodies to either snort or smoke heroin. In the past the average purity of heroin was between 1% and 10%. Now authorities are noticing the percentage as high as 98% with a national average of 35%. Price remains around \$10.00 a bag. These facts are making heroin more desirable to all drug users.<sup>16</sup>
- Methamphetamine - The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has always had to deal with the abuse of methamphetamine within its boundaries. Recently crystal methamphetamine has appeared and this would seem to indicate that the use of methamphetamine will be increasing dramatically in the near future. Other indications of the increase of use would be the ephedrine method of production, which is easier and forms a purer substance.<sup>17</sup>
- GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate) - During the spring/summer of 1999 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania scheduled the narcotic and analogs of GHB as a Schedule IV narcotic. The Department of Health has determined that substances that fall within the Schedule IV criteria are low potential for abuse or limited potential for physical or psychological abuse. Although this is the case, the Law Enforcement Community is very concerned with the rise in use and the potential of the drug to be used in conjunction with violent crime (i.e. Date Rape). This drug has received notoriety by being associated with the Rave and Club scene.<sup>18</sup>

- Cocaine sells for \$700-\$1000 per ounce in the Philadelphia/Camden Area.<sup>19</sup>

Philadelphia/Camden Area Drug Price Structure, 1998

Drug	Price
Crack	\$3-10 per vial
Cocaine	\$700-\$1000 per ounce
Heroin	\$2500-\$3500 per ounce
Marijuana	\$2000-\$3000 per pound
PCP	\$450-\$500 per liquid ounce
Methamphetamine	\$80-\$100 per gram
LSD	\$2-\$5 per tab
Quaaludes	\$10 per pill
Amphetamines	\$5 per pill
Barbiturates	\$5 per pill
Dilaudid	\$20-\$50 per pill

### Juveniles

- The percent of Philadelphia high school students surveyed that tried marijuana in their lifetime (46.5%) was slightly lower than the national figure (47.1%).<sup>20</sup>

Percent of Philadelphia High School Students Drug Use, 1997

Drug & Frequency	Female	Male	Total
Marijuana Lifetime (1)	43.8	49.4	46.5
Marijuana Current (2)	21.1	27.5	24.3
Cocaine Lifetime	2.3	4.2	3.2
Cocaine Current	0.9	1.5	1.2
Crack Lifetime	1.1	2.4	1.7
Steroid Lifetime	2.8	4.0	3.4
Injected Lifetime (3)	0.3	2.1	1.2
Other Lifetime (4)	6.3	8.8	7.5
Inhalants Lifetime	10.0	11.6	10.8

1. Lifetime-Used drug at least once in their lifetime
2. Current- Used drug once or more in last 30 days
3. Used a needle to inject drugs
4. Other drugs include LSD, PCP, methamphetamine, and heroin

### Trafficking and Seizures

- The Pennsylvania State Police seized a total of 1,812 kilograms of cocaine in 1999. These seizures have a street value of approximately \$45,300,000.00.<sup>21</sup>
- In 1999 the Pennsylvania State Police seized 3,867 kilograms of processed marijuana and 9,387 plants that were eradicated. This amount correlates to an estimated street value of \$22,289,455<sup>22</sup>.

- During 1998 the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA was responsible for the seizure of 2,180.48 Kilos of cocaine.<sup>23</sup>

<b>Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Seizures FY 1998</b>	
Methamphetamine	480.6 pounds
Cocaine	2,180.48 Kilos
Marijuana	881.428 Kilos
Heroin	7.735 Kilos
Assets Seized	\$3,280,449
Weapons Seized	105

- In 1998, there were a total of 5,795 marijuana plants eradicated in Pennsylvania, and the total value of all assets seized in Pennsylvania in 1998 related to marijuana eradication and seizure totaled \$526,625<sup>24</sup>.

#### Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized in Pennsylvania in 1998

<b>Outdoor Operations</b>		<b>Indoor Operations</b>		<b>Total Plants Eradicated</b>
<b>Plots Eradicated</b>	<b>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</b>	<b>Grows Seized</b>	<b>Plants Eradicated</b>	
478	4,593	79	1,202	5,795

#### Number of Arrests, Weapons, and Value of Assets Seized in Pennsylvania in 1998 Related to the Eradication and Seizure of Marijuana

<b>Number Of Arrests</b>	<b>Number of Weapons Seized</b>	<b>Value of Assets Seized</b>
490	75	\$526,625

#### Consequences of Use

- The number of drug-related emergency department episodes increased from 23,229 in 1997 to 24,928 in 1998. Preliminary data for 1999 shows 12,317 drug episodes in Philadelphia from January to June.<sup>25</sup>

#### Drug-Related Emergency Room Episodes and Mentions in Philadelphia, 1997-1999\*

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
Drug Episodes	23,229	24,928	12,317
Drug Mentions	42,860	45,626	22,796
Cocaine	11,202	13,049	6,221
Heroin/Morphine	3,817	3,586	1,944
Marijuana/Hashish	4,556	5,310	2,800
Methamphetamine	101	48	18

\*Preliminary data for January through June 1999 only

- The number of drug-related deaths in Philadelphia fell 14.6% from 897 in 1997 to 766 in 1998.<sup>26</sup>

#### Drug Abuse Deaths in Philadelphia, 1997-98

<b>Selected Characteristics</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Total drug-abuse episodes	897	766
<b>GENDER</b>		
Male	727	574
Female	169	191
Unknown/No response	1	1
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>		
White	586	519
Black	236	189
Hispanic	65	52
Other	8	3
Unknown/ No response	2	3
<b>AGE</b>		
6-17	7	11
18-25	105	97
26-34	215	164
35 and up	566	493
Unknown/ No response	4	1
<b>SELECTED DRUGS</b>		
Alcohol-in-comb	267	231
Cocaine	474	401
Heroin/Morphine	571	413
Marijuana/Hashish	47	47
Methadone	39	35
Methamphetamine	18	7
<b>Total Drug Mentions</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>2,234</b>

#### Enforcement

- In 1998 the state of Pennsylvania employed a total of 27,823 full-time employees in law enforcement. The total number of full-time police officers was 23,701. The number of civilian employees was 4,122.<sup>27</sup>

#### Courts

- Of the 1,491 Federal defendants in Pennsylvania during FY 1998 36.5% of them were charged with a drug-related offenses. The most common drug offense was drug trafficking (35.9% of total). The most common drug involved was marijuana (30.0%) followed by crack cocaine (23.9%), powder cocaine (23.4%), methamphetamine (11.4%), and heroin (8.9%).<sup>28</sup>



## Corrections

- 36,412 inmates were in the custody of Pennsylvania correctional authorities as of June 30, 1999<sup>29</sup>.

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections  
Monthly Population, April 30, 2000

Total Inmates in Custody	
April	36,452
May	36,613

## Treatment

- During 1997 there were 54,445 drug treatment admissions in Pennsylvania. The majority of these were for alcohol.<sup>30</sup>

Admissions to Pennsylvania Treatment Facilities, 1997	
Alcohol	14,291
Alcohol w/ secondary drug	12,820
Heroin	6,541
Other opiates	609
Cocaine (smoked)	8,272
Cocaine (other route)	2,549
Marijuana/Hashish	8,023
Methamphetamine/Amphetamine	238
Other stimulants	23
Tranquilizers	290
Sedatives	133
Hallucinogens	167
PCP	134
Inhalants	77
Other/None specified	278
Total Admissions	54,445

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/datamap/state?42>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://www.house.gov/house/MemStateSearch.htm#PA>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

<sup>4</sup> State of Pennsylvania Web site: [http://www.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/Governor](http://www.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor)

<sup>5</sup> State of Pennsylvania Web site: [http://www.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/Lieutenant\\_Governor](http://www.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Lieutenant_Governor)

<sup>6</sup> Pennsylvania Attorney General Web site: <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov>

<sup>7</sup> High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/phil-main.html>

<sup>8</sup> High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

<sup>9</sup> Drug-Free Communities Grantees:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>

<sup>10</sup> Weed and Seed web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/northeast.asp>

<sup>11</sup> Drug Courts: <http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/justice/DRCTCHAR1.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Children's Partnership Web site: <http://www.cp.state.pa.us>

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- <sup>13</sup> National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1998
- <sup>14</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999.
- <sup>15</sup> Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Drug law Enforcement Web site:  
[http://www.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/State\\_Police/bureaus/dle/drug\\_information.htm](http://www.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/State_Police/bureaus/dle/drug_information.htm)
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>19</sup> Philadelphia/Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA, 1999 Strategy*, February 1999.
- <sup>20</sup> Center for Disease Control, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1997*, August 1998
- <sup>21</sup> Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Drug law Enforcement Web site:  
[http://www.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/State\\_Police/bureaus/dle/drug\\_information.htm](http://www.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/State_Police/bureaus/dle/drug_information.htm)
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA, *Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA, 1998 Annual Report*, 1999
- <sup>24</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1998*:  
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/1995/pdf/t439.pdf>
- <sup>25</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, March 2000
- <sup>26</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network, Annual Medical Examiner Data, 1998*, March 2000
- <sup>27</sup> Pennsylvania State Police, *Uniform Crime Report 1998*, 1999
- <sup>28</sup> United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov>
- <sup>29</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Web site:  
<http://www.cor.state.pa.us/monthly%20population.pdf>
- <sup>30</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episodes Data Sets (TEDS): 1992-1997 National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services*, August 1999

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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